

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 04953 142026Z

71

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SPM-01 IO-14 HEW-08 SCI-06 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 L-03

SS-20 NSC-07 AID-20 DRC-01 /130 W

----- 030605

R 141956Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2155

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 4953

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SPOP, MX

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF POPULATION POLICIES AND PROGRAMS FOR MEXICO

REF: STATE 112325

1. THE EMBASSY HAS NOTED THE DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS OF MEXICO AND REPORTED AT SOME LENGTH ON THE GOM'S FIRM, IF SOMEWHAT BELATED, COMMITMENT TO ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEM. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HIMSELF IN HIS ANNUAL "INFORME" ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1974, NOTED MEXICO'S VERY HIGH ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF 3.5 PERCENT AND ITS CON-

SEQUENCES, IF CONTINUED: A DOUBLING OF THE POPULATION IN TWENTY YEARS AND CONCOMITANT INCREASES IN DEMAND FOR FOOD, HOUSING, EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT. (MEXICO A-471, SEPTEMBER 13, 1973). THE SUBSEQUENT PASSAGE OF A NEW POPULATION LAW (MEXICO A-229) AND FORMATION OF AN INTER-SECRETARIAL NATIONAL POPULATION COUNCIL (MEXICO A-230) MAY BE SEEN AS PROOF OF THE COMMITMENT OF THE GOM TO A NATIONAL PROGRAM OF FAMILY PLANNING.

2. EMBASSY SUBMISSION FOR THE FY-75 - FY-76 CASP PLACED THE PROBLEM OF POPULATION NEAR THE TOP OF ITS LIST OF ISSUES. THE U.S. ROLE IN THIS VERY SENSITIVE AREA MUST BE ONE OF DISCREET INDIRECT ASSISTANCE WHERE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 04953 142026Z

OPPORTUNITIES PRESENT THEMSELVES. OUR EMPHASIS SHOULD

REMAIN ON MULTINATIONAL SOURCES SUCH AS THE UNFPA AND PRIVATE GROUPS -- DIRECT U.S. ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO IS POLITICALLY UNACCEPTABLE.

3. AN INDEFINITE CONTINUATION OF MEXICO'S HIGH POPULATION GROWTH RATE WOULD INCREASINGLY ACT AS A BRAKE ON ECONOMIC (AND SOCIAL) IMPROVEMENT. THE CONSEQUENCES WOULD BE NOTED IN VARIOUS WAYS. MEXICO COULD WELL TAKE MORE RADICAL POSITIONS IN THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE. ILLEGAL MIGRATION TO THE U.S. WOULD INCREASE. IN A COUNTRY WHERE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDER-EMPLOYMENT IS ALREADY HIGH, THE ENTRY OF INCREASING NUMBERS INTO THE WORK FORCE WOULD ONLY INTENSIFY THE PRESSURE TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT IN THE U.S. BY WHATEVER MEANS. YET ANOTHER CONSEQUENCE WOULD BE INCREASED DEMAND FOR FOOD IMPORTS FROM THE U.S., ESPECIALLY IF THE RATE OF GROWTH OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION CONTINUES TO LAG BEHIND THE POPULATION GROWTH RATE. FINALLY, ONE CANNOT DISMISS THE SPECTRE OF FUTURE DOMESTIC INSTABILITY AS A LONG TERM CONSEQUENCE, SHOULD THE ECONOMY, NOW STRONG, FALTER.

4. MEXICO'S NEED IS FOR INCREASED NUMBERS OF PERSONNEL TRAINED IN HEALTH DELIVERY AND FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES, INCLUDING EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION. THE NEED IS ESPECIALLY ACUTE IN THE RURAL AREA. THE GOM ITSELF IS AWARE OF THIS LACK AND IS BEGINNING TO TRAIN ITS MEDICAL AND PARAMEDICAL PERSONNEL UNDER A NATIONAL PLAN. AS A RESULT, SOME PROGRESS HAS ALREADY BEEN NOTED IN THE PROVISION OF FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES (MEXICO 2279, A-67). THE GOM IS NOW CAUTIOUSLY BEGINNING TO AVAIL ITSELF OF TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES SPONSORED BY U.S. INSTITUTIONS, AND OFTEN UNDERWRITTEN BY A.I.D. NEW U.S. INITIATIVES ARE NOT YET CALLED FOR HERE; RATHER THE EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON PROVIDING INFORMATION ON THE FULL RANGE OF EXISTING PROGRAMS. THAT IS NOW JUDICIOUSLY UNDERWAY. RECOGNITION OF THE POPULATION PROBLEM EXISTS AMONG MEXICANS; ACCEPTANCE OF FAMILY PLANNING SEEMS TO BE EXPANDING RAPIDLY, CHURCH OPPOSITION IS MINIMAL OVERALL, BUT STRONGEST IN THE CONTRYSIDE, WHERE THE PROBLEM IS MORE SEVERE AND HARDEST TO RESOLVE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEXICO 04953 142026Z

5. IN SUMMARY, MEXICO HAS DRAMATICALLY AWAKENED TO ITS POPULATION PROBLEM AND IS MOVING TO RESOLVE IT. U.S. ACTION, BECAUSE OF LOCAL SENSITIVITIES, WILL CONTINUE TO BE MOST EFFECTIVE ACTING THROUGH THIRD PARTIES, ESPECIALLY MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS. PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO TRAINING AND EDUCATION AND TO PROGRAMS FOCUSING ON THE RURAL SECTOR. JOVA

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POPULATION, POLICIES, FAMILY PLANNING, LAW, BIRTH CONTROL, PERSONNEL TRAINING, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), POPULATION GROWTH RATE, SOCIAL PROBLEMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MEXICO04953
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740155-0764
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740645/aaaablyu.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 112325
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 SEP 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REVIEW OF POPULATION POLICIES AND PROGRAMS FOR MEXICO
TAGS: SPOP, MX
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005